



DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION: You may be represented, without charge, by an accredited representative of a veterans organization or other service organization recognized by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. You may also be represented by an attorney, for example, an attorney in private practice or a legal aid attorney. However, under 38 U.S.C. 5904(c), an agent or an attorney may only charge you for services performed on or after the date of a final decision by the Board of Veterans Appeals. If you want representation, let us know and we will send you the necessary forms. If you already designated a representative, no further action on your part is required.

RIGHT TO A HEARING: You may request a personal hearing to present evidence or argument of importance in your claim. If VA receives your request for a hearing within 30 days from the date of the accompanying letter, we will not make a final determination until after the hearing is held (or until after the expiration of 60 days from the date of the accompanying letter, if that date is later than the date of the hearing.) If VA receives a request for a hearing after 30 days from the date of the accompanying letter, we will hold the hearing but will not delay making our final decision beyond 60 days from the date of the accompanying letter.

If you want a personal hearing, notify this office and we will arrange a time and place for the hearing. You may bring witnesses if you want and their testimony will be entered in the record. VA will furnish the hearing room, provide hearing officials, and prepare the transcript or summary of the proceedings. We cannot pay any other expenses of the hearing since a personal hearing is held only upon your request.